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PART IV-A

Rules and Orders (Other than those published in Parts I, I-A, and I-L) made by the Government of Gujarat under the Central Acts

INDUSTRIES AND MINES DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar, 1st August, 2025

MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 1957.

No. GU/2025/33/GMR/102023/640/CHH: In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (f) and (g) of sub-section (1A) of section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Government of Gujarat hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) These rules may be called the Gujarat Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2025.

   (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the *Official Gazette.*

2. Definitions.- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires-

   (a) "Act" means the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957);

   (b) "Chairperson, Executive Committee" means the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Gujarat Mineral Exploration Trust;

   (c) "Chairperson, Governing Body" means the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Gujarat Mineral Exploration Trust;

   (d) "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the Trust;

   (e) "Fund" means the fund referred to in rule 7;

   (f) "Governing Body" means the Governing Body of the Trust;

(g) "Member, Executive Committee" means the member of the Executive Committee of the Trust;

(h) "Member, Governing Body" means the member of the Governing Body of the Trust;

(i) "Mineral Concession" means a quarry Parwana, a quarry permit or a quarry lease, as defined in the Gujarat Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017;

(j) "Obvious geological potential areas" means the area identified by the Geological Survey of India or the Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat or the Gujarat Mineral Research Development Society from time to time; and

(k) "Trust" means the Gujarat Mineral Exploration Trust referred in rule 3.

(2) The words and expressions used in these rules but not defined hereinabove shall have the same meaning respectively assigned to them in the Act of the rules made thereunder.

3. Establishment of Trust.- There shall be a Trust at the state level to be known as the "Gujarat Mineral Exploration Trust". The object of the Trust shall be the planned development of the mineral resources and their exploration in the State.

4. Functions of Governing Body and Executive Committee.- (1) The Governing Body shall lay down the broad policy framework for the functioning of the Trust and review its working.

(2) The Governing Body shall approve the annual plan and annual budget of the Trust upon the recommendations of the Executive Committee and it shall meet at least once in a year.

(3) The Executive Committee shall manage, administer and supervise the Trust and shall also monitor and review the expenditure of the Trust fund at regular intervals.

(4) The Executive Committee shall, while discharging its functions, follow the policy framework and the directions of the Governing Body from time to time.

5. Membership of Governing Body.- (1) The Governing Body of the Trust shall consist of the following, namely:-

Sr. No.	**Particular of the Office of the Member**	**Designation of the Members in the Governing Body**
1	Minister-in-charge of the Mines and Mineral Department.	Chairperson
2	Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary Industries and Mines Department.	Member
3	Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Finance Department.	Member
4	Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Revenue Department.	Member
5	MD, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC).	Member
6	Deputy Director General (Gujarat Unit), GSI(WR).	Member
7	Commissioner, Geology and Mining, Gujarat.	Member Secretary

(2) The Chairperson of the Governing Body may invite any person having special knowledge in the field of Mineral Exploration. Such invitee shall have no voting right in the meeting but they shall be entitled to receive such sitting fee and other allowances as may be decided by the Government, from time to time.

6. Membership of Executive Committee.- (1) The Executive Committee of the Trust shall consist of the following, namely:-

Sr. No.	**Particular of the Office of the Member**	**Designation of the Members in the Executive Committee**
1	Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary Industries and Mines Department.	Chairperson
2	Commissioner, Geology and Mining, Gujarat.	Member Secretary

Sr. No.	Particular of the Office of the Member	Designation of the Members in the Executive Committee
3	Additional Secretary(Mines)/Joint Secretary (Mines)/Deputy Secretary(Mines).	Member
4	Additional Director (Exploration), Commissioner of Geology and Mining.	Member
5	Direction (Technical), GMRDS.	Member
6	Accounts Officer, Commissioner of Geology and Mining.	Member
7	Representative, GSI(WR) (Gujarat Unit).	Member
8	Senior Geologist/Geologist (Exploration), Commissioner Geology and Mining.	Member

(2) The Chairperson of the Executive Committee may invite any person having special knowledge in the field of Mineral Exploration. Such invitee shall have no voting right in the meeting but they shall be entitled to receive such sitting fee and other allowances as may be decided by the Government, from time to time.

7. Constitution of a Fund under the Trust.- (1) The State Government shall, by order, setup a fund under the Trust to be called as the "Gujarat Mineral Exploration Trust Fund" to be managed by the Executive Committee of the Trust.

(2) The Trust Fund shall receive amount to be paid in accordance with the provisions of rule 8 and may also receive contribution/aid/s from sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee.

(3) The Fund shall be utilized for the objectives and functions as specified in rule 10.

8. Contribution to Trust Fund.- (1) The Trust shall have power to open and operate bank accounts in its own name at any Scheduled Bank as specified in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (2 of 1934).

(2) The Trust shall communicate the particulars of its bank accounts to the Commissioner, Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat for the purposes of receipts and payments.

(3) The mineral concession holders of minor minerals shall pay, in addition to royalty, the contribution to the Trust Fund in respect of any mineral removed by him from and/or consumed within the area allotted/permitted to him, a sum equivalent to two percent of the royalty as specified under the Gujarat Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017.

(4) The payment towards Trust Fund under sub-rule (3) shall be collected in advance along with royalty under a separate sub-head through e-payment and deposited in the account of trust and if any difference is accrued at the time of assessment of royalty, the same shall be deposited in the account of Trust immediately.

(5) The Commissioner, Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat shall maintain an updated record of the amount transferred to the bank accounts of the Trust along with a database of royalty so collected and provide such information to the Trust on a monthly basis.

9. Office and Bank Account. - (1) The office of the Trust shall be situated at Gandhinagar or at such other place as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

(2) The Bank Account of Trust shall be opened and operated through the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee or any other officer authorised by the Executive Committee.

10. Objects and Functions of the Trust.- (1) The Trust shall carry out regional and detailed exploration for minerals and it shall undertake such activities as may be deemed necessary by the Governing Body to achieve its objects including,-

(a) funding special studies and projects designed to identify, explore, extract, beneficiate and refine mineral deposits;

(b) undertaking studies for mineral development, sustainable mining adoption of advanced scientific and technological practices and mineral extraction metallurgy;

(c) taking up exploration of areas for regional and detailed exploration, giving priority particularly to strategic and critical minerals;

(d) consulting Commissioner, Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Mineral Research Development Society to decide the priorities for exploration of the Trust;

(e) facilitating exploration activities in such a manner that areas explored can be taken up for grant of mineral concessions in accordance with the provisions of the Gujarat Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017;

(f) facilitating completion of brown field regional exploration projects in obvious geological potential areas(G3) including conducting high-risk exploration for deep-seated mineral deposits through modem technologies;

(g) promoting completion of detailed exploration (G2 or GI) across Gujarat in the areas where G3 stage exploration has been completed;

(h) facilitating geophysical, ground and aerial, survey and geochemical survey of obvious geological potential areas and rest of the State;

(i) facilitating a State core repository for encouraging research in earth sciences and for evaluation of the mineral prospects;

(j) organizing capacity building programmes to raise technical capability of personnel engaged in or to be engaged in exploration;

(k) strengthening the Petrography and Mineral Chemistry Laboratory of the State Government for conducting sample analysis;

(l) preparing geological report subsequent to the exploration activities; and

(m) using the Trust Fund for such other purposes that the Governing Body may decide, or authorize the Executive Committee, to be necessary or expedient in the interest of conservation, development and exploitation of mineral resources of the State.

(2) In furtherance of the objectives referred to in Sub-rule (1), the Executive Committee may employ or hire personnel, own and dispose of property, including intellectual property, incur administrative expenses and execute documents as may be necessary.

11. Management of the Trust. - (1) The overall control, periodical reviews and policy direction of the Trust shall vest with the Governing Body.

(2) The Executive Committee shall manage, administer and supervise the day to day activities of the Trust.

(3) The Governing Body may authorize the Executive Committee to exercise any or all of its powers as mentioned in sub-rule (l).

(4) The Executive Committee shall formulate and finalize the scheme for delegation of financial powers.

12. Committees.- (1) The Executive Committee may constitute committees or sub-committees to undertake such tasks that may be assigned or delegated by the Executive Committee to such committees or sub-committees.

(2) The committee or sub-committee constituted under sub-rule (1) shall devise its own procedure in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities under these rules and in exercise of such powers and functions as may be specified by the Executive Committee.

13. Implementation of projects by the Executive Committee.- (1) The Executive Committee may implement the projects consistent with the objectives of the Trust on its own accord or upon receipt of a project proposal from the Commissioner, Geology and Mining or Gujarat Mineral Research Development Society or any other entity, including private sector entities.

(2) In implementation of the projects referred to in sub-rule (1), the Executive Committee may devise its own procedure consistent with these rules.

14. Monitoring of projects.- (1) The Trust shall monitor implementation of the projects either by itself or by engaging any government entity, including the Gujarat Mineral Research Development Society.

(2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1), the Trust may devise its own procedure consistent with these rules.

15. Meetings of the Governing Body.- (1) The Governing Body shall meet at least once in a year.

(2) The meetings of the Governing Body shall be presided by the Chairperson, Governing Body and in the absence of the Chairperson, Governing Body, the Members of the Governing Body may elect an officiating Chairperson, from among themselves.

(3) All decisions or resolutions including circular resolutions of the Governing Body shall be made or adopted by consensus.

(4) In case of any disagreement or dissent, the decision of the Chairperson, Governing Body shall be final.

16. Meetings of the Executive Committee.- (1) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once in every three months.

(2) The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be presided by the Chairperson, Executive Committee and in the absence of the Chairperson, Executive Committee, the Members of the Executive Committee may elect an officiating Chairperson, from among themselves.

(3) The meetings of the Executive Committee may be either physical or virtual or by combination of both or by circulation:

Provided that the meeting by circulation shall not apply for adoption of accounts of the Trust, recommendation to the Governing Body for approval of annual plan, annual budget and annual report of the Trust.

(4) All decisions or resolutions including circular resolutions of the Executive Committee shall be made or adopted by a majority of votes of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting.

(5) In case of equality of votes, the Chairperson, Executive Committee, or in his absence, the member presiding over such meeting as the Chairperson shall have a casting vote:

Provided that no member shall vote or take part in the discussion of any matter coming up for consideration at a meeting of the Executive Committee or any of its committees or sub-committees, if the matter is one in which such member has any direct, indirect or pecuniary interest.

17. Notice and agenda for meeting of Governing Body and Executive Committee.-

(1) The Chairperson or the Member Secretary of the Governing Body with the consent of the Chairperson, Governing Body, shall convene the meeting of the Governing Body by giving a minimum fifteen days' notice to all the members:

Provided that the Chairperson, Governing Body may authorize to convene a meeting with a shorter notice period.

(2) The Chairperson or the Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee, with the consent of the Chairperson shall convene the meeting of the Executive Committee by giving a minimum seven days' notice to all the Members:

Provided that the Chairperson of the Executive Committee may authorize to convene a meeting with a shorter notice period.

(3) Notice for any meeting may include an agenda for that meeting, draft minutes of the earlier meeting and action taken report on the minutes of the earlier meeting.

18. Quorum for meeting.- (1) The quorum for any meeting of the Governing Body shall be three, excluding the special invitees.

(2) The quorum for any meeting of the Executive Committee, including a virtual meeting, shall be three, excluding the special invitees.

19. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of Member-Secretary of Executive Committee.-

(1) There shall be a Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee to discharge the functions of the Executive Committee.

(2) The Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee shall,-

(a) administer and manage the Trust subject to the superintendence, control and direction of the Executive Committee.

(b) exercise such administrative and financial powers as may be delegated by the Executive Committee or as may be assigned by the Chairperson, Executive Committee.

(3) The Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities, without prejudice to the generality of sub-rule (2) and (3), namely:-

(a) to cause the preparation of the annual plan and related annual budget and submit them to the Executive· Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Governing Body;

(b) to ensure that due diligence has been exercised before considering proposals or projects to be: undertaken by the Trust in accordance with the practices, procedure, rules or directions of the Executive Committee;

(c) to ensure that the activities of the Trust are being conducted in accordance with the annual plan and related annual budget; and

(d) to submit to the Governing Body the approved annual plan and related annual budget for each financial year to the Government, by the end of January of previous financial year.

20. Annual Plan.- (1) The Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, at the beginning of each financial year, cause preparation of plans for short term projects and long term projects proposed to be undertaken by the Trust in the relevant financial year, to be referred as the annual plan, together with details of the activities to be undertaken or completed by the Trust during such time, the expected time for completion of the projects and cost for such project.

(2) The annual plan shall contain all projects, programmes, activities proposed to be undertaken by the Trust for achieving its objective and shall have clearly demarcated milestones.

21. Annual Budget.- The Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, at the beginning of each financial year, cause preparation of an annual budget containing the details of the proposed income and expenditure on activities covered in the annual plan for that particular financial year, including the legal, administrative and other costs and expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Trust together with details of the funding requirements in this regard, to be referred as the annual budget.

22. Approval of the Annual Plan and the Annual Budget.- (1) The annual plan and the annual budget shall be laid before the Governing Body for its approval.

(2) The Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, on receipt of the copies of the duly approved annual plan and the related annual budget from the Member Secretary of the Governing Body, submit the same to the State Government within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of approval of the Governing Body.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-rule (2), the Trust may undertake expenditure for activities that are not approved in the annual plan subject to specific approval by the Chairperson, Governing Body, which shall be laid before the Governing Body in the next annual budget.

(4) The annual plan and related annual budget may be amended at any time subject to the approval of the Chairperson, Governing Body, which shall be laid before the Governing Body in the next year plan or budget.

23. Annual Report.- (1) The Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, within ninety days of the end of each financial year, submit an annual report containing such information as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.

(2) The annual report shall be approved by the Executive Committee and shall contain details, inter alia, of the activities completed by the Trust during the financial year and the expenditure incurred by the Trust during such financial year.

(3) A copy of the annual report shall be sent to the State Government within a period of thirty days from the date of its approval by the Executive Committee.

24. Financial year.- (1) The accounting or financial year of the Trust shall be from the 1st of April to the 31st of March.

(2) The first year of operations of the Trust may be a partial year.

25. Maintenance and Audit of Accounts.- (1) The accounts of the Trust shall be maintained in the form, mode and manner as may be decided by the Executive Committee.

(2) The accounts of the Trust Fund shall be audited in such manner as may be decided by the Executive Committee.

(3) After the audit referred to in sub-rule (2), the Trust shall submit the annual report to the Governing Body.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Gujarat,

JIGAR PATEL,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

Signature Not Verified
Signed by:BHOLUSINGH G THAKUR
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